

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for extending the courtesy of meeting with their undersigned representative in a personal interview on June 14, 2011 to discuss the rejections of the claims and amendments that would place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended the claims as discussed.

Applicants have cancelled claims 42 and 43 without prejudice.

Applicants have amended claim 15 such that the claimed exhaust gas aftertreatment device comprises an exhaust gas recirculation positioned between the reforming unit and the NOx storage catalytic converter. Applicants have amended claim 32 to include a step of supplying reformate to the engine, by way of an exhaust gas recirculation operably arranged between the NOx storage catalytic converter and the reforming unit. Support for these amendments is found e.g. in paragraph [0053] of the published application (page 23, lines 8-14 of the substitute specification as filed on October 5, 2005).

Claims 42-43 are objected to for lacking a period at the end. Applicants have cancelled the claims without prejudice.

Claims 15, 16, 19, 32-34, 38, 39, 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for purportedly being unpatentable over Stanglmaier et al. in view of Stroia et al. Applicants disagree, however, in view of the amendments to the claims Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

As amended the claimed exhaust gas aftertreatment device of independent claim 15, and dependent claims 16, 19, 38, 39 and 44, comprises an exhaust gas recirculation ("EGR") between the NOx storage catalytic converter and the reforming unit, the EGR being operable to supply reformate to the engine. As amended the claimed method for operating an exhaust gas aftertreatment device of independent claim 32 and dependent claims 33, 34 and 45 comprises a step of supplying reformate to the engine, by way of an exhaust gas recirculation operably arranged between the NOx storage catalytic converter and the reforming unit.

Neither Stanglmaier et al. nor Stroia et al. teach or suggest an aftertreatment device comprising an EGR and as such the claimed gas aftertreatment device and method are not taught or suggested by the combination of Stanglmaier et al. and Stroia et al.

The combination of Stanglmaier et al. and Stroia et al. fail to render the invention as claimed obvious and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 15, 16, 19, 32-34, 38, 39, 44 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stanglmaier et al. in view of Stroia et al.

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for purportedly being unpatentable over Stanglmaier et al. in view of Stroia et al. as applied to claims 16 and 15 respectively and further in view of Murachi et al. Applicants disagree, however, in view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 17 and 18 describe an exhaust gas after treatment device comprising an exhaust gas recirculation ("EGR") between the NO_x storage catalytic converter and the reforming unit, the EGR being operable to supply reformat to the engine, and additionally comprises a three-way catalytic converter. Murachi et al. like Stanglmaier et al. and Stroia et al. also fails to teach or suggest an EGR in an exhaust gas aftertreatment device and thus Murachi et al. fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Stanglmaier et al. Stroia et al.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request that the Office reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the combination of Stanglmaier et al., Stroia et al. and Murachi et al.

Claims 42 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Stanglmaier et al. in view of Stroia et al. as applied to claims 15 and 32 and further in view of Bromberg et al. Applicants disagree, but nonetheless have cancelled claims 42 and 43 and thus have obviated the rejection.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for purportedly being unpatentable over Stanglmaier et al., in view of Stroia et al. and Bromberg et al.

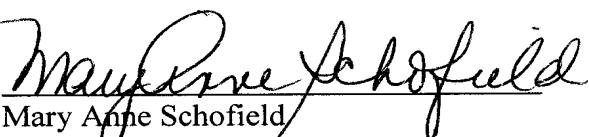
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Reply
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Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 095309.56876US).

Respectfully submitted,

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